

# Clinch River State Park Comprehensive Plan

Advisory Committee Meeting

November 29, 2021





# Agenda

3pm-5pm

- Hello and welcome
- Meeting purpose
- Project process
- Survey results
- CRSP Purpose Statement
- CRSP Goals & Objectives
- Site conditions mapping
- Park character
- Next steps



# Housekeeping

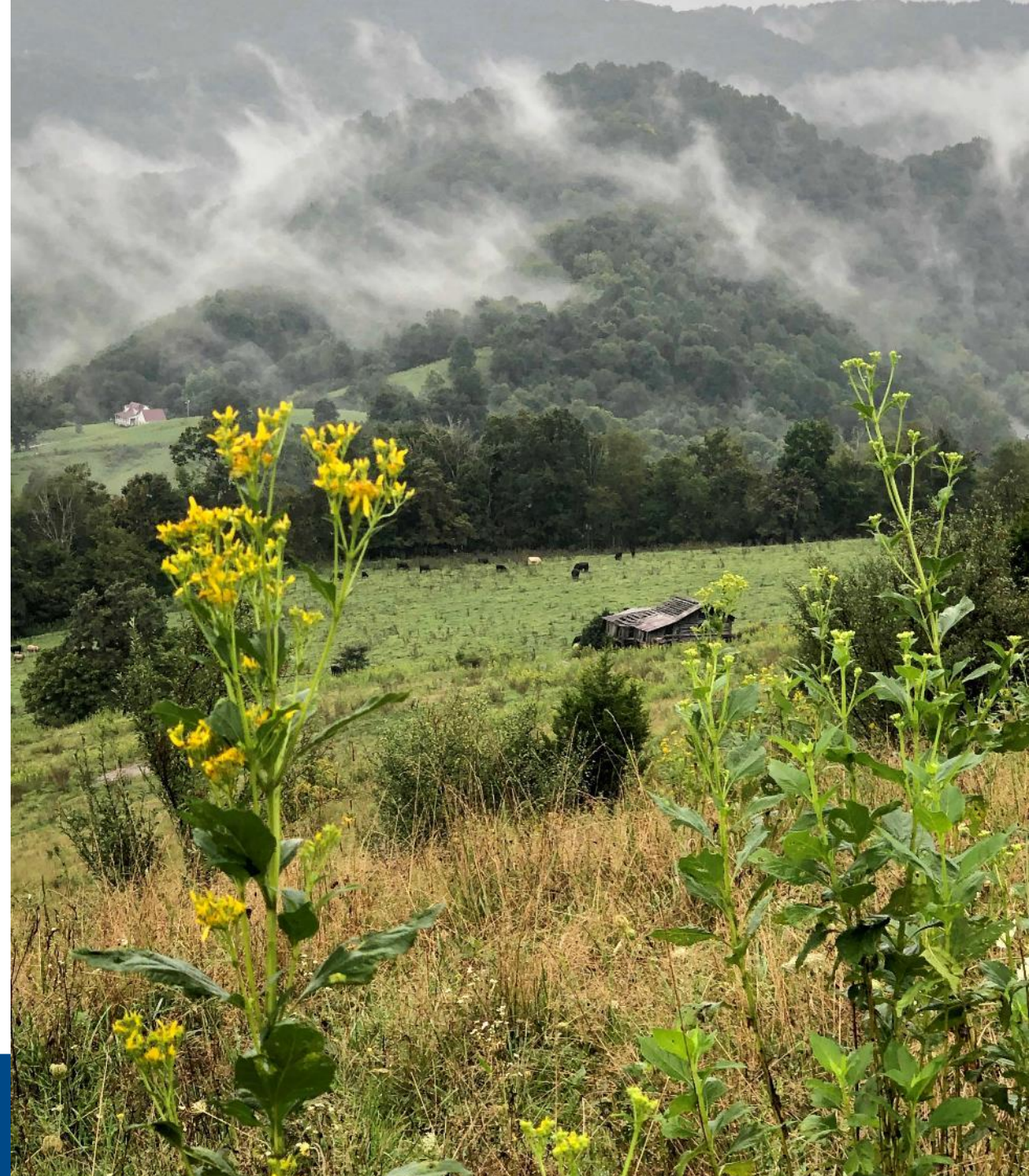
- All phone/ mics on mute
- Turn cameras off
- All comments and questions in the Chat Bar
  - These will be recorded and responded to by Dec. 8, 2021
- Additional comments will be received until Dec. 6, 2021 via email to: Jennifer Wampler at [jennifer.wampler@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:jennifer.wampler@dcr.virginia.gov).
- The pdf and recorded presentation will be made available after the meeting.  
<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/masterplan>



# Meeting Purpose

In advance of the first public input meeting on Clinch River State Park:

- provide an update to the Advisory Committee of the project's progress
- share the final draft purpose statement and goals & objectives
- share site mapping

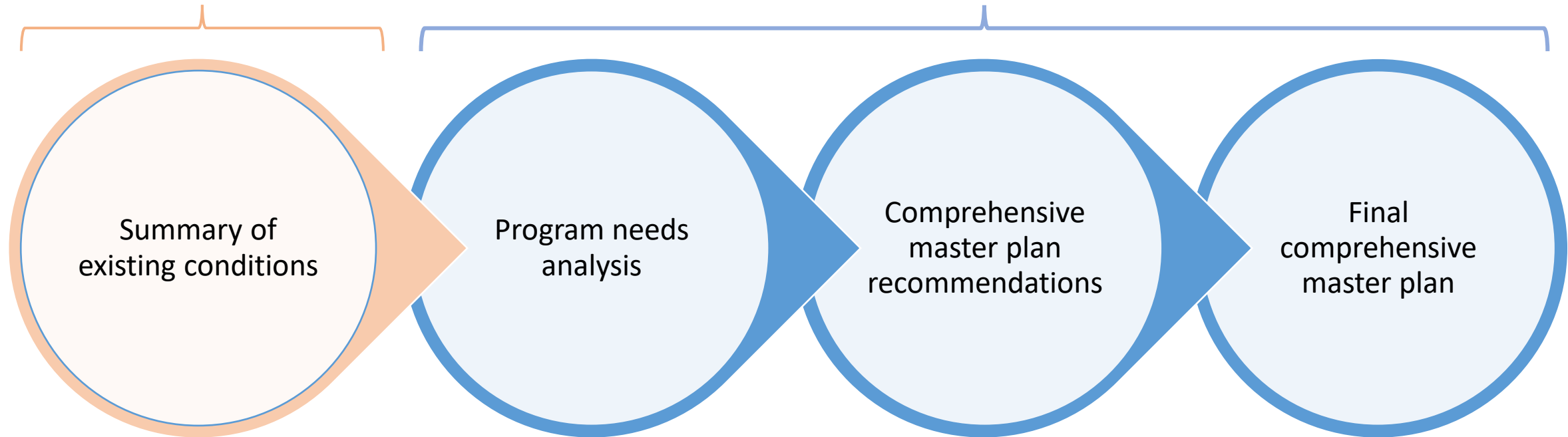




# Process

## Stage 1 - Conservation

## Stage 2 - Recreation



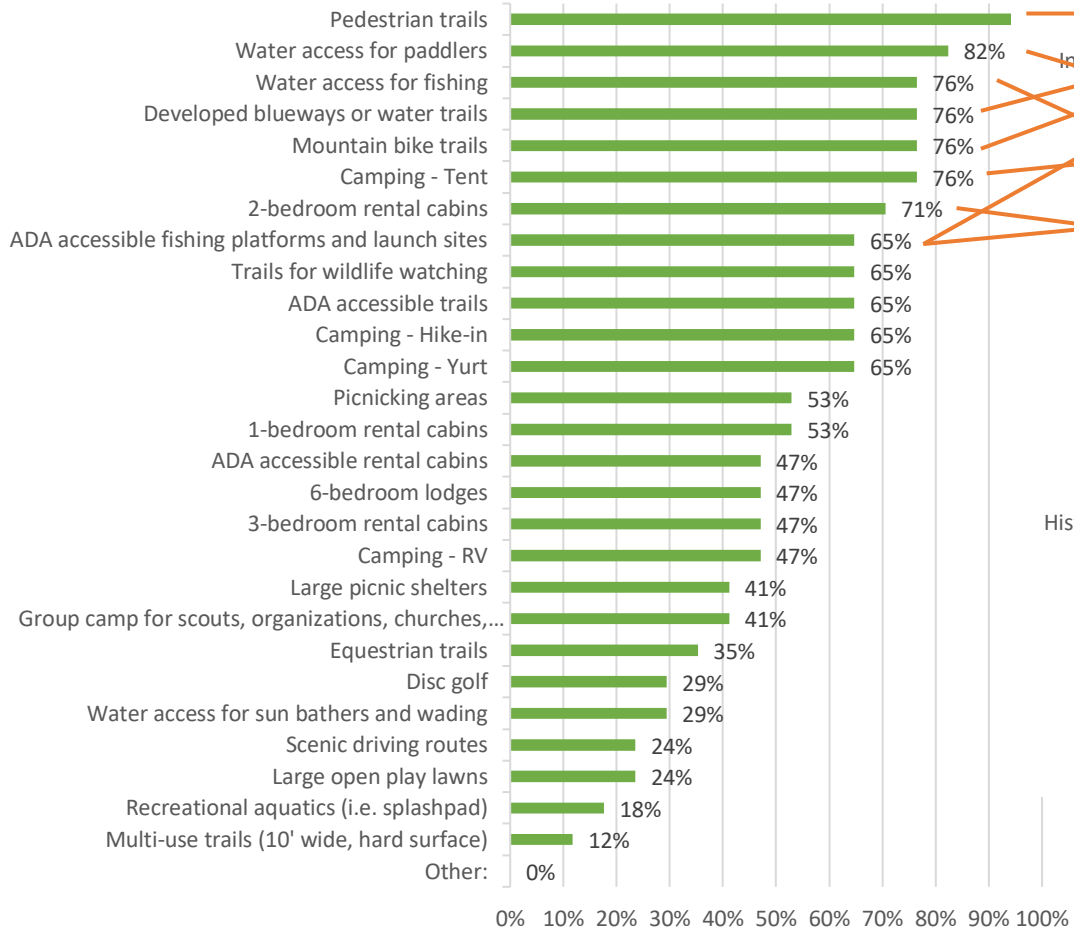
# Advisory Committee Survey Results

September 2021 - Summary

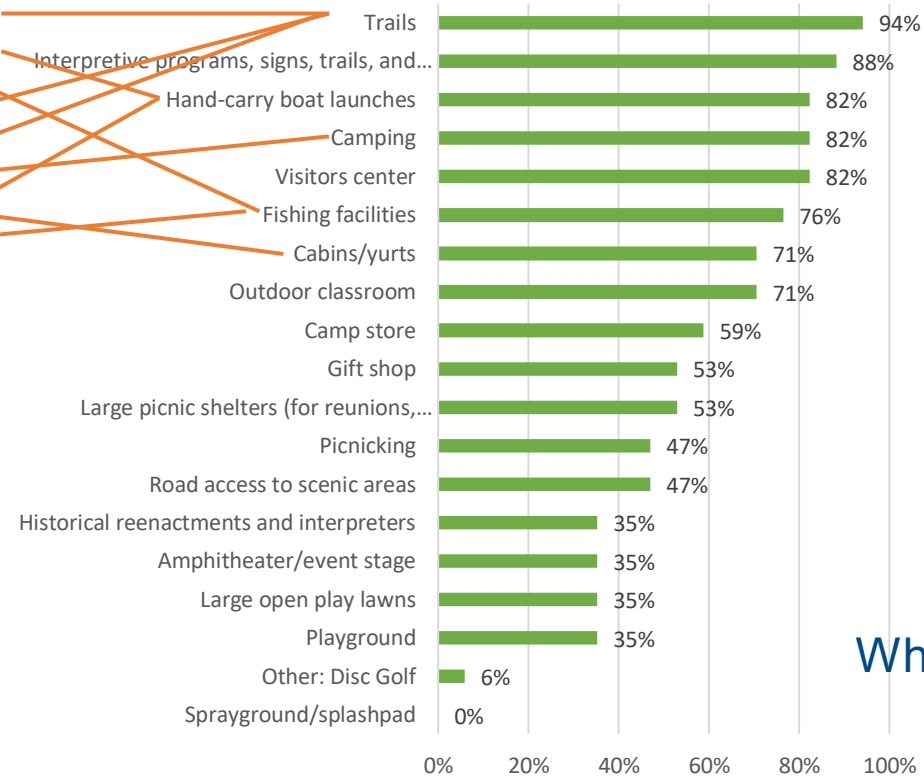
- Site should be developed in an environmentally sensitive way that prioritizes natural resource conservation and enhancement, access to the Clinch River, and environmental education.
- The top regional recreation needs align with the respondents' preferred amenity development of the site, focusing on trails, river access, camping and cabins, interpretation, and education.
- The focus of the park to be on unique site features, rather than destination amenities like a pool or splash-pad.
- The site should appeal to single and multi-day visitors as well as area residents.
- The park should attract visitors to the area and integrate with the other regional resources and attractions, encouraging and supporting economic development and local businesses.



## What recreational opportunities are there a need for in the region? (Select all that apply)



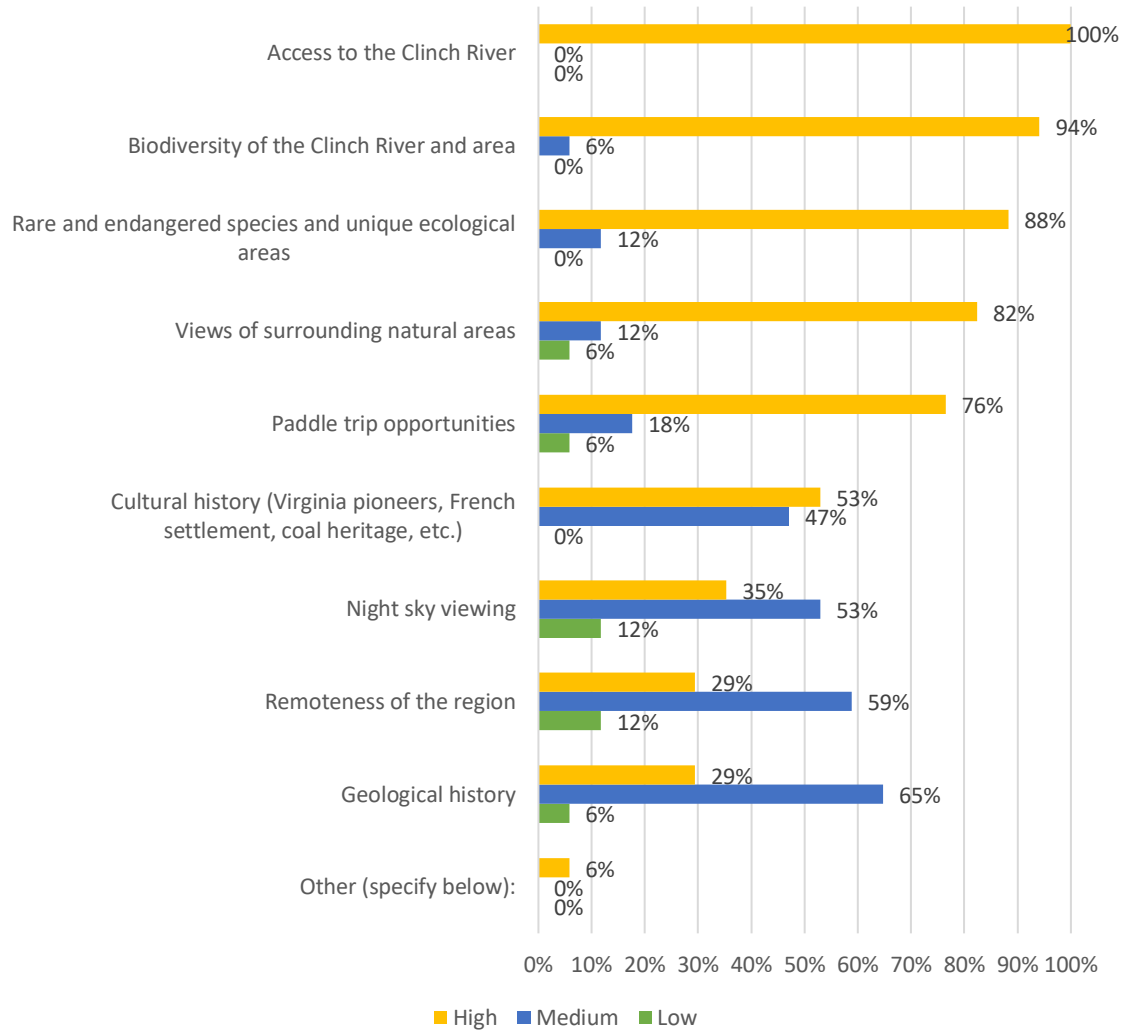
## What facilities or services should be provided at Clinch River State Park tracts? (Select all that apply)



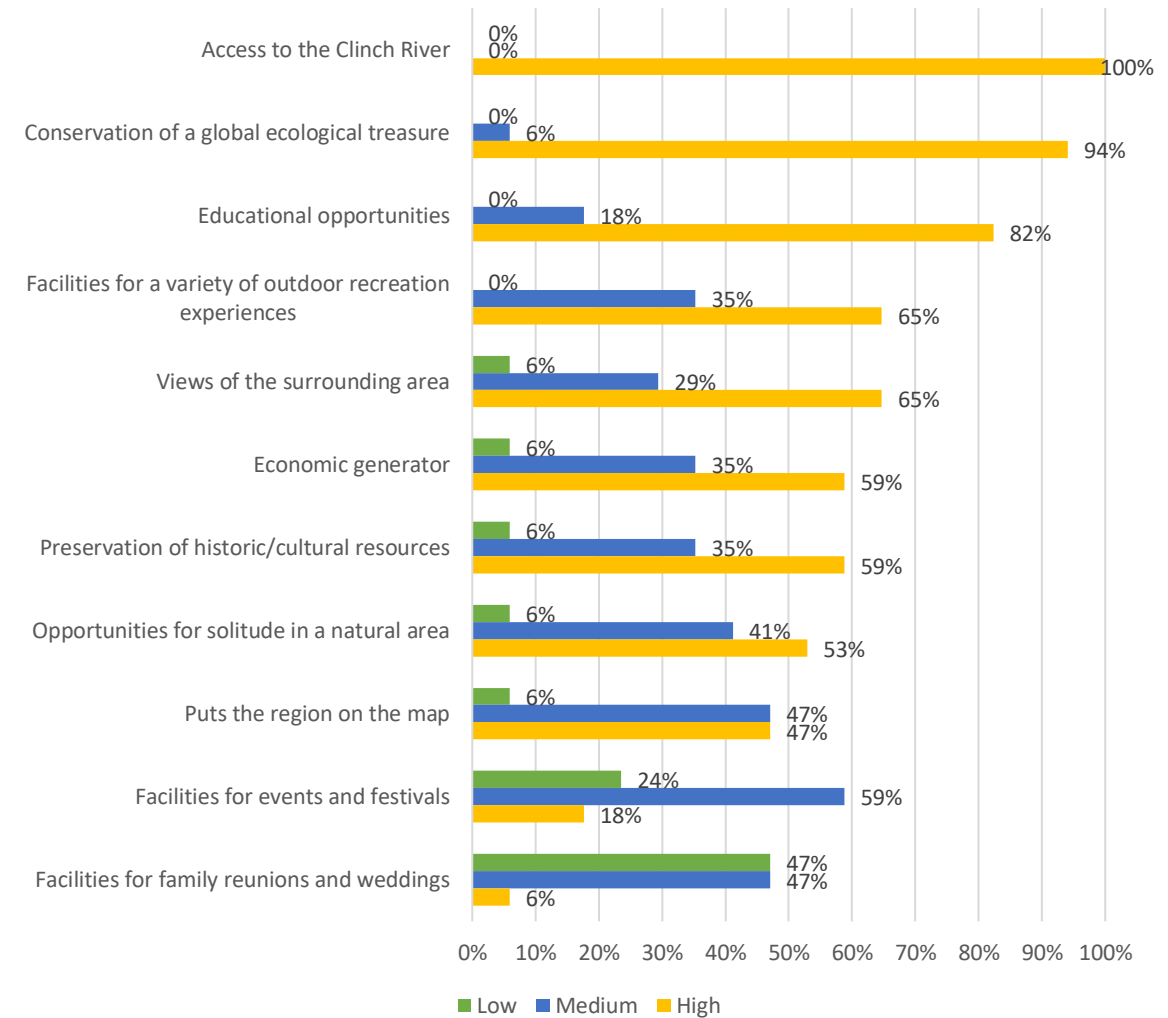
## What facilities shouldn't be included?



## What makes this park unique? (Rate each item low/medium/high)

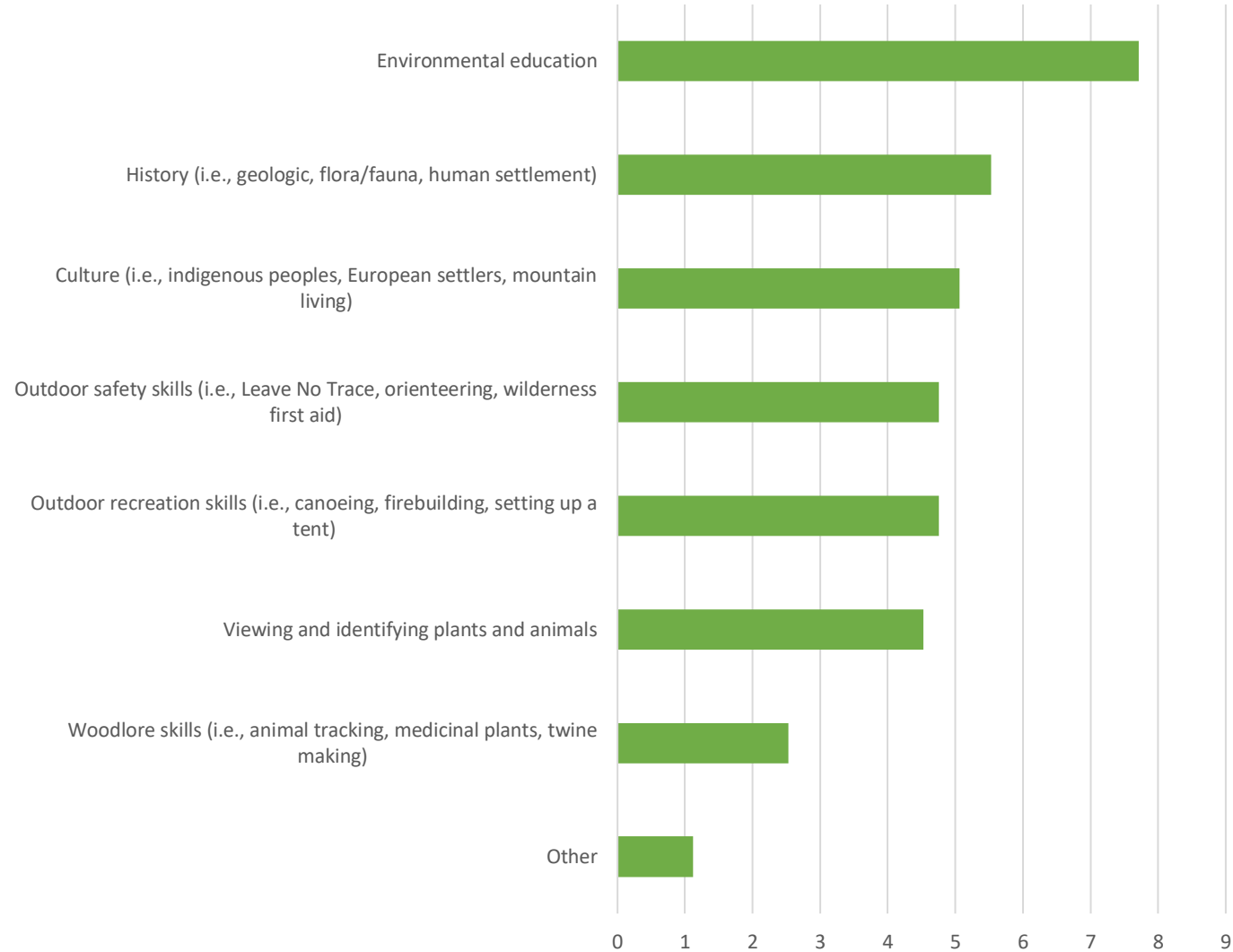


## Why is this Park Important? (Rate High/Medium/Low)

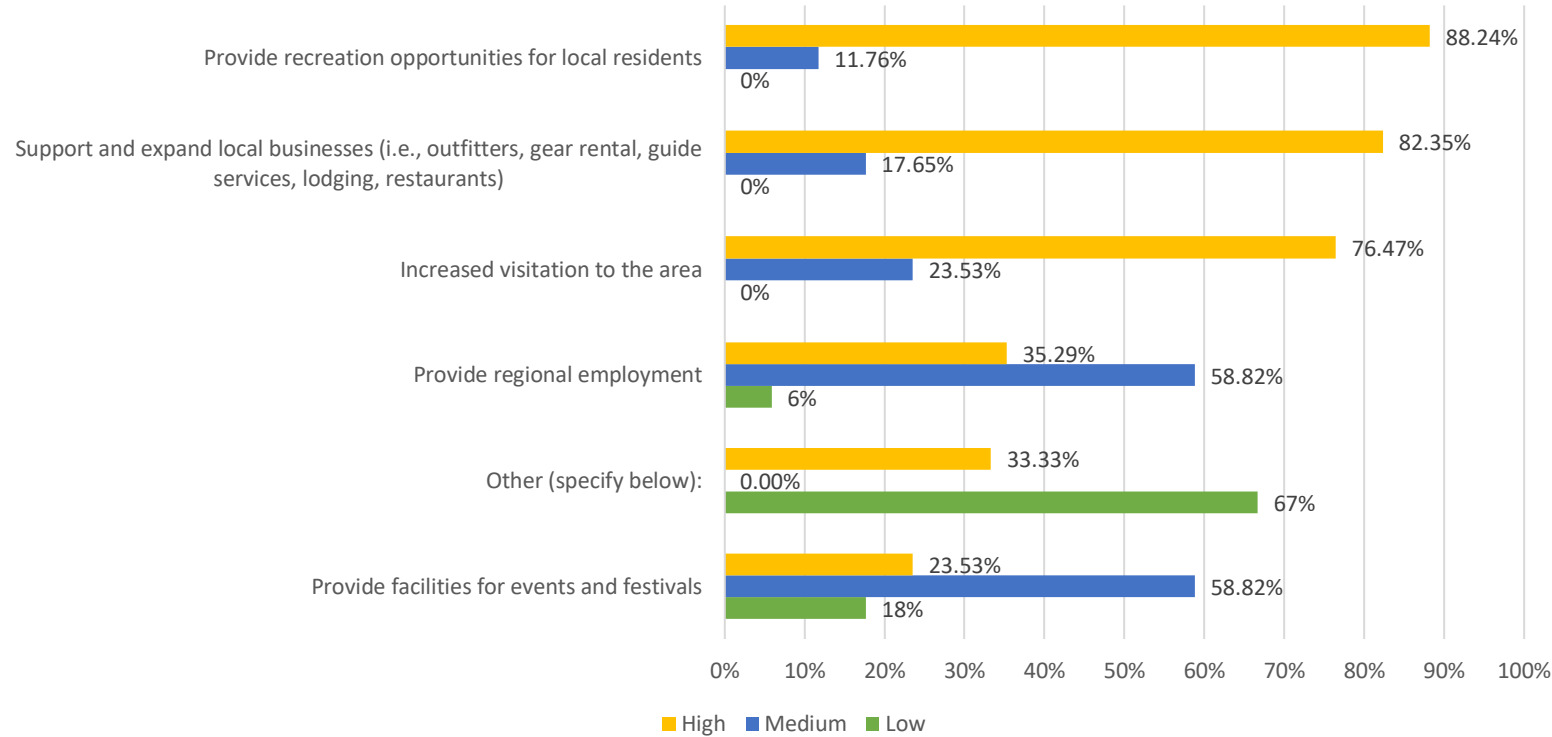




# Importance of Educational Activities



## What is the desired impact of the Clinch River State Park on the community? (Rate each item low/medium/high)



Other: Educate public about Clinch's high biodiversity

Other: Provide opportunities to improve existing communities (ie. Infilling)

Other: Just to reinforce the fact that there are many small communities along the river that can benefit by being incorporated into the master plan as they can play a major role in providing amenities, services, and attractions that will spur local economies, attract investors and new business, revitalize towns, create jobs, and retain young talent.



What phrases should be included in the park purpose statement?



# Alignment between survey and Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> workshop

- Engage with the community and connect the park with the region
- Balance visitor experience and recreation with capacity of the site
- Preserve and enhance natural and cultural resources
- Visitors learn about region and site's heritage and environment, learn to appreciate and protect

## Workshop Program Priorities

VOTES	PROGRAMS
13	Blueways <sup>[1]</sup>
12	Outdoor classrooms <sup>[2]</sup>
11	Interpretive programs/signs
11	Hiking Trails
9	Visitor's center
9	Cabins / Yurts <sup>[3]</sup>
6	Campground
5	Higher education research center
5	Multi-use Trails
4	Fishing piers
4	Hand carry boat launches
3	Road access to scenic areas
3	Mountain bike trails
2	Picnic pavilion
1	Water access



# Clinch River State Park Purpose Statement

“Clinch River State Park is envisioned as a string of pearls along the ecologically significant Clinch River, providing opportunities for all for recreation and education that connects visitors to the environmental and cultural significance of the river and the region, conserving and enhancing sensitive resources; and fostering connections within and between adjacent communities.”

# CRSP Goals

Goal 1.0 – Protect, conserve, and enhance the natural, scenic, cultural, and historic resources of the park.

Goal 2.0 – Create a welcoming and safe experience for all

Goal 3.0 – Provide a range of overnight and day use opportunities and facilities for visitors to the park

Goal 4.0 – Provide facilities and programs for environmental, cultural, and historical education and interpretation

Goal 5.0 – Work across sectors to provide mutually beneficial efforts to enhance the Clinch River and the surrounding region

Goal 6.0 – Administer and manage the park in a professional and transparent manner which fosters the public's trust



## Goal 1 – Protect, conserve, and enhance the natural, scenic, cultural, and historic resources of the park.

**Objective 1.1** – Develop and manage the park, its resources, and facilities in an environmentally sensitive manner as a best practice and educational opportunity.

**Objective 1.2** – Protect, promote, and interpret the cultural and historic resources on site and in the region.

**Objective 1.3** – Develop and implement a Natural and Cultural Resources Management Plan.

**Objective 1.4** – Preserve and protect endangered and threatened species and habitat through direct action and partnerships.

**Objective 1.5** – Develop and manage the park to strengthen regional sense of place.

**Objective 1.6** – Evaluate and develop tracts at an appropriate level for the site quality and environmental sensitivities.





## Goal 2 – Create a welcoming and safe experience for all

**Objective 2.1** – Develop and operate the park in a manner that respects and embraces the culture of the region and the visitor.

**Objective 2.2** – Develop and implement a Visitor Experience Plan.

**Objective 2.3** – Provide a range of high-quality recreation opportunities for a variety of users, regardless of income, background, and ability.

**Objective 2.4** – Serve as a hub of access and information for regional recreation resources and provide visitors clear interpretation, orientation, and wayfinding in and to the park and at partnership-managed locations.

**Objective 2.5** – Anticipate the needs of the changing community and structure programs and facilities accordingly.





## Goal 3 – Provide a range of overnight and day use opportunities and facilities for visitors to the park

**Objective 3.1** – Design and manage recreational activities to minimize impacts on natural and cultural resources to preserve the experience for future visitors.

**Objective 3.2** – Provide a spectrum of high-quality recreation opportunities and supporting infrastructure for single-day and multi-day park users that encourages repeat visitation to the park.

**Objective 3.3** – Provide a variety of type and length of river float opportunities directly and in partnership.

**Objective 3.4** – Provide opportunities for dispersed recreation experiences by providing access to the river and the system of conservation lands.





## Goal 4 – Provide facilities and programs for environmental, cultural, and historical education and interpretation

**Objective 4.1** – Provide a variety of inclusive educational formats for all learning capabilities and levels.

**Objective 4.2** – Teach environmental awareness and stewardship.

**Objective 4.3** – Educate park visitors and the wider community about the value of the environmental, cultural, and historical resources within the region and how to act to sustain and conserve these resources.

**Objective 4.4** – Provide educational opportunities for safe and environmentally-appropriate water and land-based recreation, directly or in partnership

**Objective 4.5** – Provide site-appropriate education and interpretation at each CRSP tract.

**Objective 4.6** – Develop partnerships with local organizations to promote educational opportunities.

**Objective 4.7** – Engage diverse groups with the programming and cultural interpretation on site.

**Objective 4.8** – Plan programs and access in a manner that promotes understanding and protection of plant and animal seasonal cycles.





## Goal 5 – Work across sectors to provide mutually beneficial efforts to enhance the Clinch River and the surrounding region

**Objective 5.1** – Work in partnership to manage, connect, and conserve resources in the park and the region.

**Objective 5.2** – Participate in partnership and collaboration to further the shared goals and objectives of regional organizations.

**Objective 5.3** – Participate in local, regional, and state planning efforts, related to recreational opportunities and access as well as other shared interests.

**Objective 5.4** – Collaborate with local and regional tourism on park-oriented efforts.





## Goal 6 – Administer and manage the park in a professional and transparent manner which fosters the public's trust

**Objective 6.1** – Ensure the park has adequate staffing and operations to support safe and meaningful visitor experiences and to protect and conserve resources.

**Objective 6.2** – Acquire additional land from willing sellers that meets the needs and objectives of the park as opportunities arise.

**Objective 6.3** – Develop and implement a Business Management Plan.

**Objective 6.4** – Provide appropriate levels of staff with the necessary skills to achieve the park's goals and objectives and provide the necessary training to reach those goals.

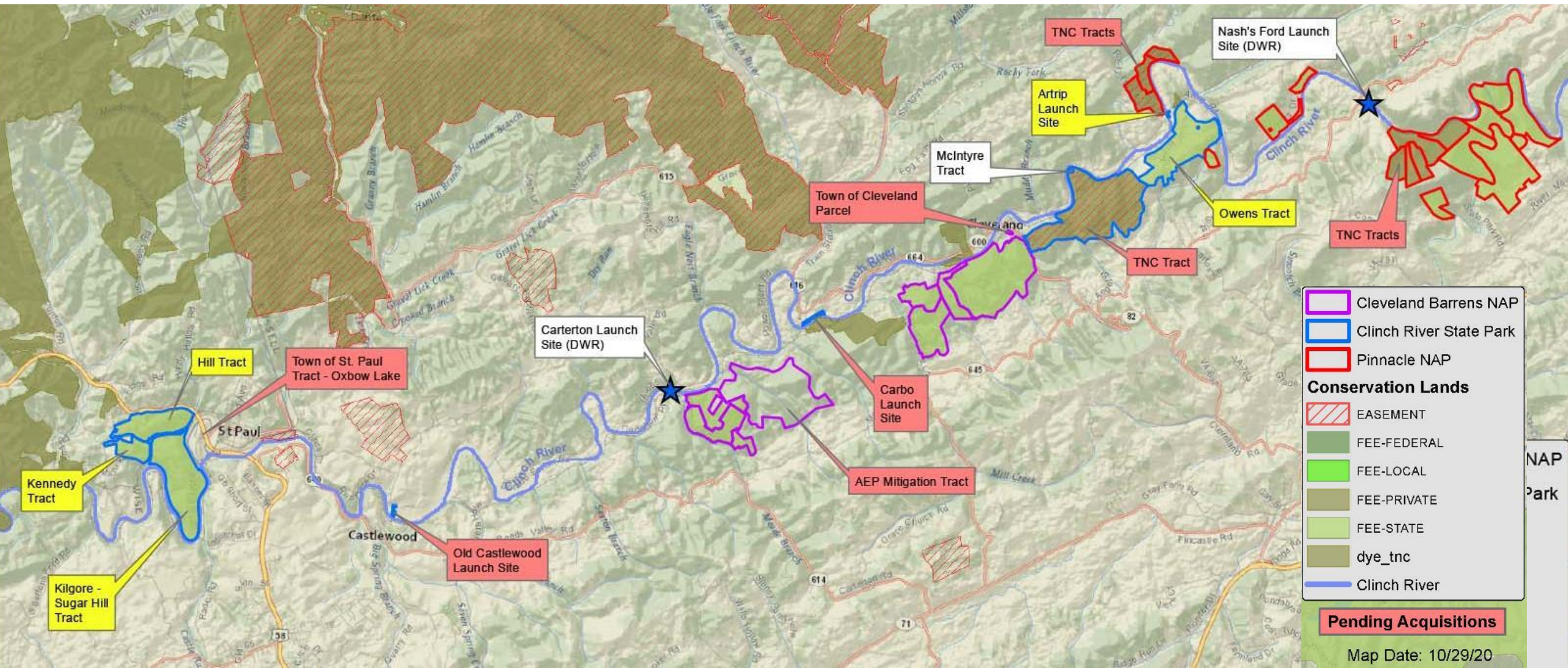
**Objective 6.5** – Assure proper care and maintenance of park facilities and infrastructure.

**Objective 6.6** – Upgrade and provide state of the art digital communications and informational access to enhance the visitor's experience throughout the park.



# DCR Acquisition Lands Along Clinch River

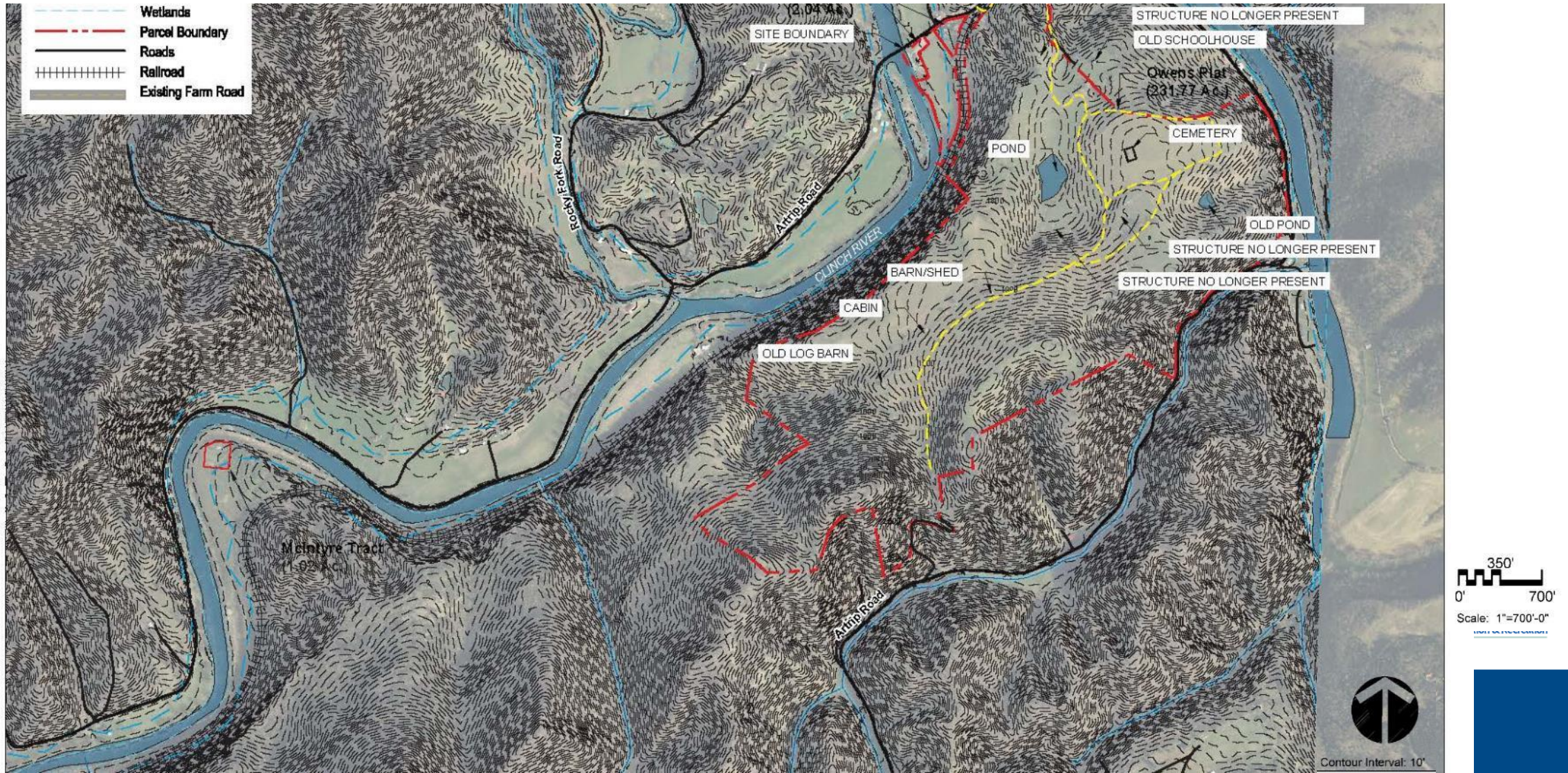
Pinnacle to St. Paul





# DCR Acquisition Lands Along Clinch River

## Russell County Tracts (Atrip Acquisitions)





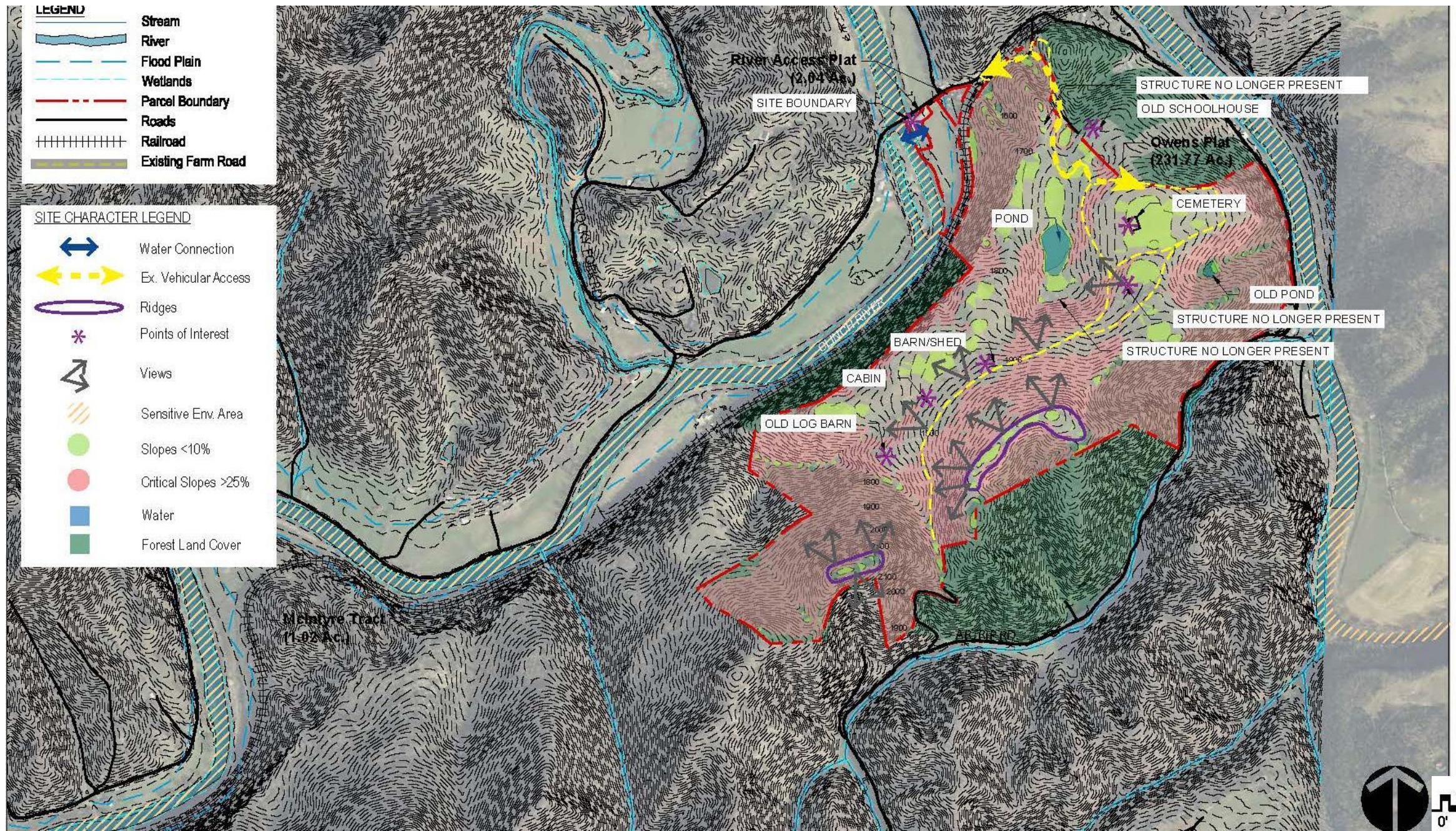








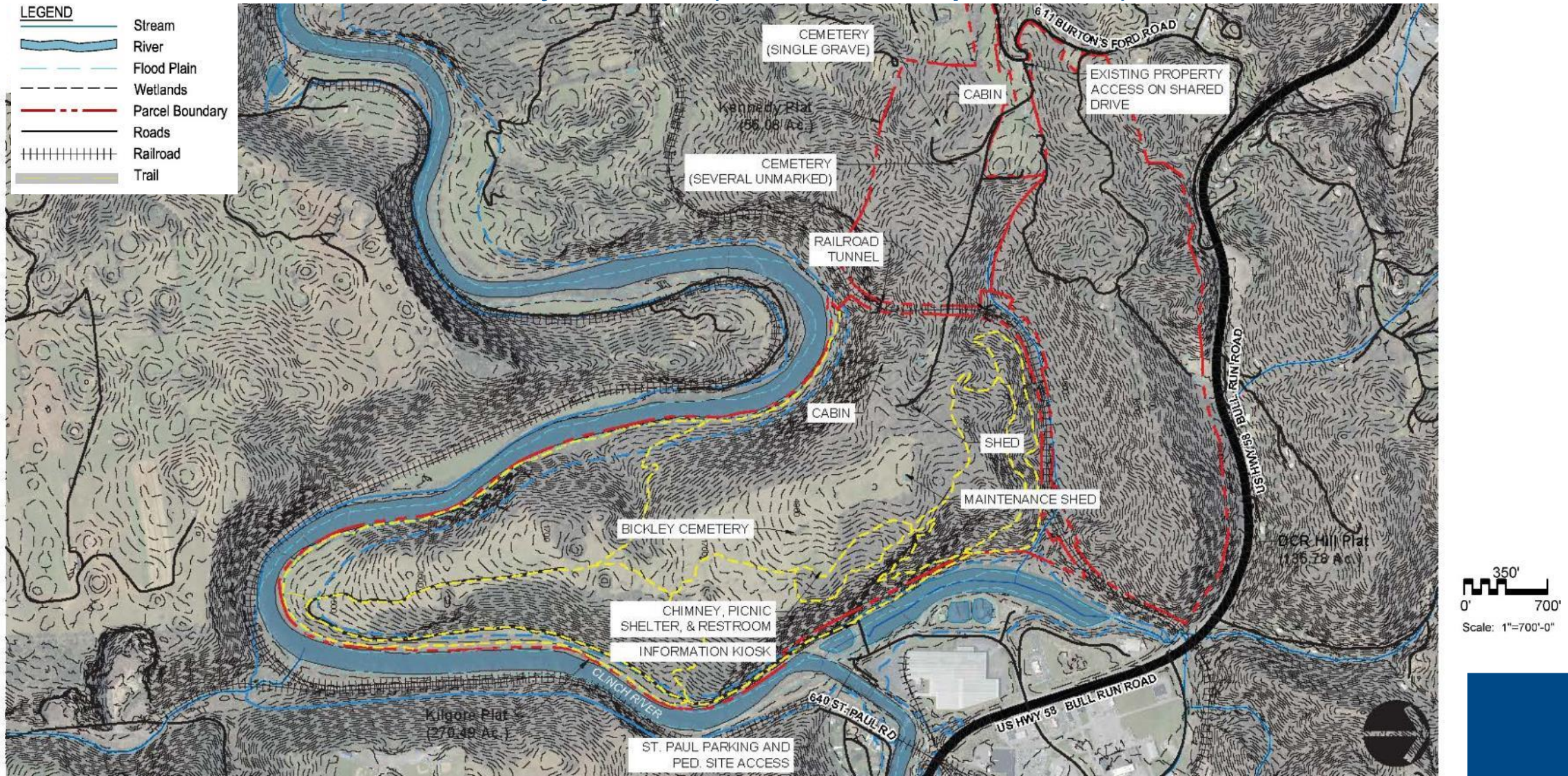
# Opportunities and Constraints - Russell County Tract (Artrip)





# DCR Acquisition Lands Along Clinch River

## Wise County Tracts (St. Paul Acquisitions)

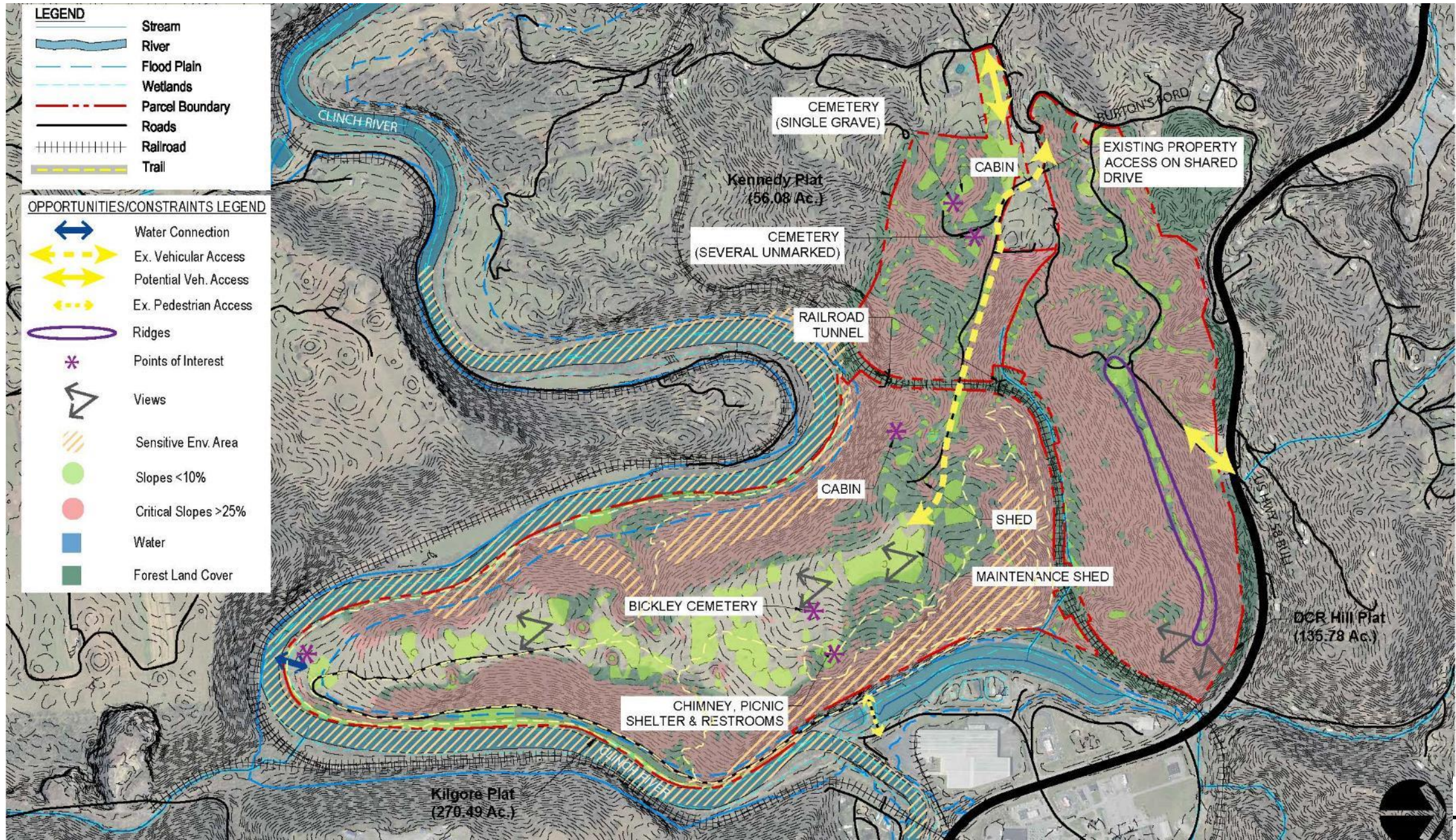






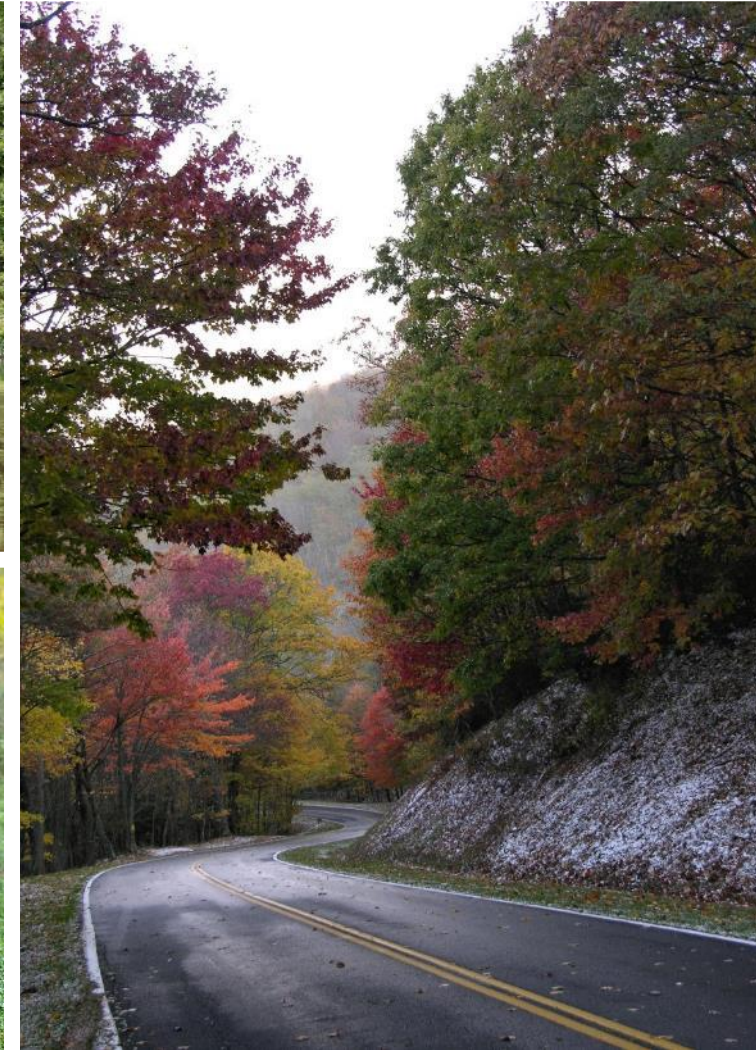


# Opportunities and Constraints - Wise County Tract (St. Paul)



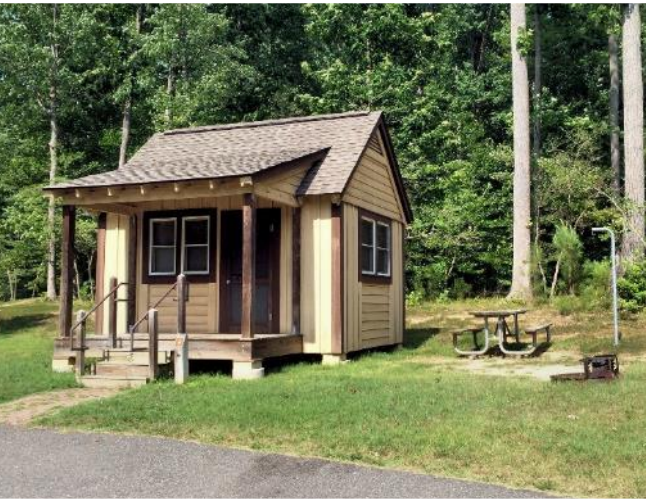


# Proposed Park Character





# Proposed Park Character





# Next Steps

Public Meeting December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 6:30-8:00pm Link for registration:

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/cr-masterplan-public-input-meeting>

The pdf and recorded presentation will be made available after the meeting.

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/masterplan>



# Thank you for attending!

If you have any question, please contact  
Jennifer Wampler at [Jennifer.wampler@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:Jennifer.wampler@dcr.virginia.gov)  
by December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

All emails and questions from the chat bar will be responded to by December 8th